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Security Council

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Letter dated 27 September 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the Russian Federation in August 2010. The document was prepared under my responsibility, after consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Churkin**

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Annex to the letter dated 27 September 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the Russian Federation (August 2010)

Introduction

Under the presidency of the Russian Federation, the Security Council engaged in an extensive programme of work during the month of August. The Council held 19 meetings and consultations of the whole. The Council adopted two resolutions, agreed on one presidential statement and seven statements to the press.

Africa

On **9 August**, the Council members held an interactive discussion and exchanged views on the consequences of the withdrawal of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) from the Central African Republic with Minister for Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Francophone World of the Central African Republic Antoine Gambi, Permanent Representative of the Central African Republic, Ambassador Fernand Poukré-Kono, and Permanent Representative of Belgium, Ambassador Jan Grauls, in his capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission country configuration on the Central African Republic, participated in this dialogue.

On **10 August**, the Council members were briefed by Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MINURCAT Youssef Mahmoud on the report of the Secretary-General on this Mission. Minister for Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Francophone World of the Central African Republic Antoine Gambi and Permanent Representative of Chad, Ambassador Ahmad Allam-mi, addressed the Council.

In the consultations of the whole that followed, members of the Council welcomed the briefing of Mr. Mahmood, and discussed the security and humanitarian situation in eastern Chad and north-eastern Central African Republic, which continues to be volatile. It was emphasized that the improved relations between Chad and the Sudan are of particular importance for subregional stability. They expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Governments of Chad and the Central African Republic to exercise their responsibility to protect civilians and humanitarian workers. In this context, the members of the Council encouraged the Government of Chad to continue efforts to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the Détachement integré de sécurité (DIS) and to keep the Council informed. They also discussed the consequences of the withdrawal of MINURCAT from the Central African Republic and the need to avoid any vacuum of security in the subregion.

On **11 August**, the Council held consultations of the whole on the item "Strengthening cooperation between the United Nations system and the Central African region in the maintenance of peace and security" and heard a briefing of Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Tayé-Brook Zerihoun on the proposal of the Secretary-General to establish a United Nations Office for Central Africa in Libreville, Gabon.

On **18 August**, the members of the Council adopted a press statement of its President on the Democratic Republic of Congo, in which the members of the Council condemned in the strongest terms attacks on United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) peacekeepers in Kirumba on 18 August, which resulted in the deaths of three Indian soldiers and left at least six more wounded. They expressed their condolences to the families of those killed in the attack and to the Government of India, encouraged the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo to ensure that the perpetrators are swiftly brought to justice, reiterated their support for MONUSCO and demanded that all parties cooperate fully with the operations of MONUSCO.

On **23 August**, in consultations of the whole, the Council heard briefings by Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Atul Khare and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes, on the security and humanitarian situation in Darfur, particularly in Kalma camp for internally displaced persons in southern Darfur. Tensions sparked by deadly clashes over IDPs' participation in the Doha peace process escalated sharply there with some IDPs protesting the peace talks and others supporting them. Mr. Khare informed that the situation in Kalma had improved but remained tense and insecure, with continuing incidents of sporadic shooting. Mr. Holmes expressed serious concern over an intention of the Sudanese authorities to relocate the IDPs from Kalma to new camps, stressing that the IDPs relocation or return should be voluntarily.

The members of the Council condemned the instigation of violence in Kalma and welcomed UNAMID efforts to increase patrols and restore calm. They stressed the need for a demilitarized status of this and other IDP camps and condemned any attacks against humanitarian or United Nations personnel in Darfur, expressing deep concern at the trend of kidnapping and intimidation. The members of the Council recalled the obligation of the Sudanese authorities and all other parties to ensure timely and unhindered humanitarian access and called for enhanced cooperation among all parties concerned to ensure that assistance is given to the people in need. They reiterated the importance of ensuring an effective and inclusive process of political settlement in Darfur and urged all parties to join the Doha process, resolve their differences through dialogue and refrain from violence.

On **24 August**, the Security Council adopted a press statement of its President condemning in strongest terms the attack of the extremists on the Muna Hotel in Mogadishu, which resulted in the death and injury of both civilians and members of the Somali Parliament.

The Security Council called for the perpetrators to be brought swiftly to justice and reiterated its full support to the Transitional Federal Government and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

On **24 August**, the Security Council held a debate on piracy off the coast of Somalia. A number of States, and representatives of two international organizations were invited to participate under rules 37 and 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon addressed the Council, calling for enhanced international cooperation in order to effectively fight the threat piracy poses to the safety of maritime navigation and stability in the region. The Council was briefed by Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, the Legal Counsel, Patricia O'Brien, who laid out the key points of the report of the Secretary-General on possible options to further the aim of prosecuting and imprisoning persons responsible for acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia.

Ambassador Vitaly Churkin read out the presidential statement (S/PRST/2010/16) on behalf of the Council.

The exchange of views that followed reaffirmed that piracy derived from general instability and lack of law and order in Somalia and, consequently, peace, stability, development and the respect for human rights were necessary to create the conditions for its durable eradication. Participants welcomed the report by the Secretary-General setting out various options for bringing pirates and their supporters to justice as a solid foundation for future work in this regard, as well as his intention to appoint a Special Adviser on legal issues related to piracy off the coast of Somalia. They commended the ongoing efforts of States to prosecute suspected pirates in their national courts, while stressing the need for their continued commitment to address challenges such as the limited judicial and prison capacity of States in the region. The need for regular review of progress achieved in prosecution and imprisonment of persons responsible for acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea was also emphasized, with a view to considering possible future steps to ensure that such persons are held accountable.

On **25 August**, in consultations of the whole, the members of the Council, while discussing "Other matters", reached a consensus to respond positively to the proposal of the Secretary-General to establish a United Nations regional office for Central Africa in Libreville, Gabon.

On **26 August**, in consultations of the whole, the Council heard a briefing by the Director of Africa II Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on the savage rape and assault of Congolese civilians, which took place from 30 July to 3 August in Walikale district of North Kivu province in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The members of the Council agreed on a press statement of its President on this issue, in which they expressed their outrage at this recent case of mass rape allegedly perpetrated by elements of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) and Mai Mai. They reiterated their demand that all parties to armed conflict immediately cease completely all forms of sexual violence and all human rights abuses against the civilian population of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular gender-based violence, including rape and other forms of sexual abuse.

The members of the Council recalled that it is of the utmost importance that the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to pursue its efforts to fight impunity and called upon the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to swiftly investigate these attacks and ensure that the

perpetrators are brought to justice. They welcomed the decision of the Secretary-General to dispatch immediately Assistant Secretary-General Atul Khare to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to consult with relevant national authorities, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and United Nations personnel on the ground, to ascertain to the fullest extent possible the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident and to assess what more could be done in order to ensure more effective protection of civilians. They also welcomed the instruction of the Secretary-General to his Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Margot Wallstrom, to coordinate the United Nations response and follow-up on this incident and expressed the intention to be briefed by Mr. Khare and Ms. Wallstrom on their findings. The members of the Council demanded that all possible steps should be taken to prevent such outrages in the future.

On **31 August**, the Security Council adopted a press statement of its President condemning in the strongest terms the attack of the extremists on the presidential palace in Mogadishu on 30 August, which resulted in the death of four Ugandan AMISOM peacekeepers.

The Security Council reiterated its condemnation of all acts of violence and incitement to violence against civilians, AMISOM and the Transitional Federal Government. The Security Council stressed the importance of international assistance to train, equip and build the capacity of the Somali security forces and called on the international community to provide additional resources to AMISOM in order for it to better fulfil its mandate.

Asia and the Middle East

On **4 August**, the Council members adopted a press statement of its President welcoming the United Nations panel of inquiry on the flotilla incident of 31 May, which was announced by Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon on the same day.

On **5 August**, the Security Council heard a briefing by Miroslav Jenča, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, on the work of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) over the past six months. The members of the Council agreed on a press statement of its President in which they appreciated the work of the Regional Centre in assisting Central Asia countries in responding to challenges in the region. They encouraged further cooperation and coordination between UNRCCA and the Governments of the region and relevant regional organizations. The members of the Council reaffirmed the need to provide appropriate support to the efforts of the Regional Centre to facilitate dialogue and assist the Governments of Central Asia on regional issues of common concern.

On **17 August**, the Council members heard a briefing from Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Fernandez-Tarranco on the situation in the Middle East, who noticed that the international community is nearing a turning point in the efforts to promote direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

Mr. Fernandez-Tarranco added that, for these negotiations to succeed, it is crucial to maintain an enabling climate on the ground. Parties should adhere to their

Roadmap commitments and obligations under international law, as re-emphasized by the Quartet on 19 March in Moscow.

Resolution 1701 (2006)

On **3 August**, the Security Council received a briefing on the exchange of fire along the Blue Line between Lebanon and Israel from Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Alain Le Roy and Force Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) Alberto Asarta-Cuevas. Members of the Council urged both countries to exercise maximum restraint, respect the Blue Line and observe a cessation of the hostilities.

On **24 August**, the Security Council, in consultations of the whole, discussed the letter of the Secretary-General requesting a year-long extension of the mandate of UNIFIL. The Council members received a briefing in this regard from Assistant Secretary-General Atul Khare, who underscored the need for continued full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006), respect for the Blue Line and close cooperation between UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces.

Mr. Khare stressed that the incident on the Blue line on 3 August must remain isolated and informed that the United Nations had received assurances from all parties that they wanted to defuse tension and continue working closely with UNIFIL to restore and maintain calm in the area.

On **30 August**, the Security Council adopted resolution 1937 (2010) extending the mandate of UNIFIL for another year, to 31 August 2011. Representatives of Lebanon and Israel took the floor after the vote to express the position of their countries on UNIFIL and the situation concerning the Blue Line.

Situation in Iraq

On **4 August**, the Security Council held consultations of the whole to discuss the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). In an open briefing prior to those consultations, Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Iraq Ad Melkert stressed that with successful elections Iraq embarked on a historic path to shape its future, but delays in forming the next government present a real test for transition. Permanent Representative of Iraq Ambassador Hamid Al Bayati said that the most important issue for his country is to relieve the burden of Chapter VII.

Members of the Council adopted a press statement of its President expressing support for the Iraqi political process and the unity and territorial integrity of this country and calling for the quick formation of the new government in Baghdad.

On **5 August**, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1936 (2010) extending the United Nations presence in Iraq for another year.

Europe

Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) AND 1244 (1999)

On **3 August**, the Council held a debate on Kosovo, during which Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) Lamberto Zannier briefed the Council on the situation on the ground and the work of UNMIK. He said that the situation in Kosovo had been relatively stable, although the potential for instability, especially in northern Kosovo, remained. He noted that slow progress towards reconciliation between the communities and the unresolved issues that hampered such reconciliation, coupled with slow economic development, continued to present the risk of social unrest. Touching upon the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 22 July 2010 regarding the unilateral declaration of independence in respect of Kosovo, Mr. Zannier stressed that the United Nations preliminary legal assessment was that the opinion did not affect the status of UNMIK or a status-neutral policy. He also added that the judgment confirmed the applicability of resolution 1244 (1999). Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Serbia Vuk Jeremić and Skender Hyseni of Kosovo addressed the Council. Members of the Council exchanged views on the situation in Kosovo and provided their assessments.

Thematic issues

United Nations peacekeeping operations

On **6 August**, the Security Council held an open debate on peacekeeping attended by force commanders of 13 United Nations peacekeeping missions.

The Council was briefed by Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Alain Le Roy, as well as by Lieutenant General Sikander Afzal, Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in Liberia; Lieutenant General Babacar Gaye, outgoing Force Commander of MONUSCO; Major General Moses Bisong Obi, Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan; Major General Robert Mood, Head of Mission and Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization; and Major General Luiz Guilherme Paul Cruz, Force Commander of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti. The Force Commanders gave a brief survey of developments concerning their missions, as well as an overview of current deployments. They laid out the challenges ahead and shared lessons learned.

The discussion that followed reaffirmed the importance of in-depth military assessment of the steps taken within the framework of United Nations peacekeeping, and focused on the analysis of "troubled spots" in United Nations peacekeeping activities and on a quest for concrete ways to improve them.

The problem of insufficient resources for peacekeeping operations was highlighted, especially as it tends to aggravate owing to the expanding scope of their tasks, including humanitarian assistance and protection of civilians. Participants expressed a common understanding of the need for adequate training of

peacekeeping troops on the basis of uniform standards and coordinated national programmes.

The exchange of views confirmed the practical benefits of a wider feedback between the senior leadership of peacekeeping missions and members of the United Nations Security Council.

Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea

On **24 August**, the Security Council heard a briefing by Permanent Representative of Turkey Ambassador Ertugrul Apakan on the activities of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006) concerning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The members of the Security Council expressed appreciation for the work of the Committee and stressed the importance of the implementation of resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009). The members of the Security Council also discussed the final report submitted by the 1718 Committee Panel of Experts.